

Town of Berwick

Council

Minutes of the Meeting

June 12, 2007

Attendance

In attendance

Mayor John Prall
Deputy Beth Easson
Mayor
Councillors Richard Horsburgh
Mike Trinacty
Don Clarke
Gary Whittier
Anna Ashford-Morton

Chair

Guests

Media Sarah Keddy

Kings County
Register

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the following addition:

New Business:

- (b) Update on Trade Mission to Scotland
- (c) Valley Fiber Optic Update – Councillor Don Clarke

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Second Readings:

(a) Non-Domestic Animal Bylaw

Mayor Prall reviewed the motion and the proposed Amendments with regard to the Non-Domestic Animal Bylaw. He then asked for comments from Council.

Councillor Whittier noted he felt that Council should go “back to the drawing board” with regard to this issue.

Councillor Trinacty remarked that PAC has struggled with this proposed bylaw since day one, and suggested that we omit it, as it looks difficult to find anything that is suitable.

Councillor Clarke indicated that we have had a number of complaints for many years, and because of that fact, he suggested that Council direct it back to PAC. He noted that we want to keep the opportunities open for residents with large lots.

Councillor Morton relayed that she has been opposed to this bylaw from the beginning. She noted that any citizen who was concerned, had not attended the public hearing to voice any opinions on this matter.

Councillor Horsburgh indicated that lifestyle is key and keeping our rural way of life has been our main approach. He highlighted that he felt that citizens would look after their own respectfulness.

Deputy Mayor Easson informed Council that she felt this issue should go back to PAC and that the committee should specifically look at small lots with large animals.

Mayor Prall indicated that many people in Town do want a bylaw in this regard. He suggested that perhaps we need to look further into this to satisfy everyone.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council refer the Non-Domestic Animal Bylaw issue back to PAC for further review.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Prall noted that PAC requires some good and informative information and suggested that PAC invite citizens who are directly effected by this proposed bylaw.

5. Committee Updates and Recommendations:

(a) Committee of the Whole – Recommendations

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council support the reactivation of the Eco-Kings Committee and work with the group to increase public awareness of environmental issues facing Kings County communities.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Ashley noted that he spoke to Councillor Bolland earlier that day. Councillor Bolland indicated that the Eco-Kings Committee is presently setting up a budget. Mr. Ashley asked him to forward the budget when they have it together but the Town of Berwick may only participate this year in the way of “leg work”, not monetary contributions.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the 2007/08 Operating Budget totaling \$3,424,900.00

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve for 2007/2008 a Residential Tax Rate of \$1.550, a Commercial Tax Rate of \$3.188 (applicable to commercial and Business Occupancy assessments), and a Sewer Rate of 0.130;

MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the three year Capital Budget for 2007-2010 totaling \$4,505,900.00.

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Planning Advisory Committee – Report and Recommendation

Deputy Mayor Easson reviewed the PAC Report to Council (Page 9-11 of the Agenda).

Discussion ensued regarding the directional signage for the Berwick Industrial Park.

Mayor Prall noted that H&G Properties inquired as to if they were permitted to erect a directional sign.

Councillor Whittier suggested that if this directional signage went ahead, that it match the other directional signage in the Town.

Council suggested that H&G Properties put forth a design to PAC for this directional signage. Mayor Prall noted that Gary Gould should be consulted on the design.

Councillor Trinacty suggested that the signs indicate that big trucks be directed to the Morse Lane entrance as heavy truck traffic has been an issue to South Street residents in the past.

It was recommended in the PAC Report to Council that Council postpone its original plan to sell the Orchard Street property through the Multiple Listing Service and that it refer the matter back to the Planning Advisory Committee to re-consider the options and to make a recommendation in light of newly emergent alternatives.

Mr. Ashley explained Mr. Chutes' proposal and suggestion of he buying the Town's piece of land and/or coordinate an effort to sell the Town's piece of land and his piece of land together to a potential developer. Mr. Chute suggested that PAC have this discussion.

Councillor Horsburgh felt that Council should go ahead and list the property now and noted that Mr. Chute can buy the land at that time.

Deputy Mayor Clarke indicated that he thinks the matter should be referred back to PAC until Council hears from Mr. Chute.

Mayor Prall discussed the idea of contacting the Town's Planning Advisor, Chris Millier, as to if this is even a valid consideration for PAC (to conjoin with Mr. Chute).

Mr. Ashley indicated that Mr. Chute thought that there may be another in approach in selling this property. Mr. Chute also inquired about putting out an RFP with regard to the two properties.

Councillor Whittier suggested that Council sell the property as previously mentioned.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council engage a real estate broker to sell the property at the prevailing market value, as is, on the open market.

MOTION CARRIED

It was felt this route leaves the determination of the highest and best development uses for this property to the market. Council directed staff to coordinate with Mr. Chute, if possible.

6. New Business

(a) Call Centre Tour- Report

Councillor Horsburgh reported that he, Councillor Morton and Mr. Ashley attended the Call Centre in Cornwallis for a tour. He was very impressed with the facility and the size of the operation. The location has between 400-500 employees. They also have incentives for employees for recruitment.

Councillor Morton indicated it was a beautiful facility. She noted the Call Centre is based on performance and bonuses and have many incentives. The incentive material has to be bought within the community.

Mr. Ashley that the typical stereotypes about a Call Centre were very wrong. This facility had lots of work space and was very bright. There is much employee turnover but many people stay for years as well.

Mr. Ashley highlighted that we have invited NS Business Inc. to come to talk to us about Berwick's potential for a Call Centre, with regard to location, etc.

Councillor Trinacty indicated that this is a project for the Economic Development Committee and reiterated the importance of same.

(b) Trade Mission to Scotland

Mayor Prall gave a report on the Trade Mission to Scotland. He indicated that there were some very good ideas brought about and many contacts made. There will be a main report on this trip coming forth in the near future.

(c) Fiber Network

Councillor Clarke reported that the Fiber Network is infact making headway. The committee has hired a marketing person. He reported that the General Meeting was June 13th.

Councillor Horsburgh asked that Queen Annapolisa receive a letter of congratulations from Mayor and Council. He also suggested that accolades to her be put on the July Council Agenda.

7. Adjournment

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

John Prall, Mayor

Chantal Pineo-Atwood, Recording Secretary